

Message Text

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SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS HEARINGS ON PHILIPPINES

1. ON APRIL 27, DON FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE HELD A HEARING ON SITUATION IN PHILIPPINES IN WAKE OF ELECTIONS. DR. GEORGE KAHIN OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY, EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR. AND SERGIO OSMENA WERE WITNESSES. CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN OF CALIFORNIA CHAIRED AND WAS ONLY CONGRESSMAN PRESENT.

2. WITNESSES WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF MARCOS GOVERNMENT, DETAILED ALLEGED ACTS OF FRAUD AND REPRESSION, AND DECRIED U.S. SUPPORT OF REGIME. KAHIN, WHO WAS IN MANILA FOR ELECTION, GAVE ACCOUNT OF EVENTS AND STATED THAT, IN HIS LONG EXPERIENCE IN ASIA, HE HAD SEEN FEW ELECTIONS SO BLATANTLY RIGGED.

3. PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE IN STATEMENTS AND IN RESPONSE
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TO QUESTIONS INCLUDED THESE:

A) VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT IS OF SYMBOLIC VALUE TO MARCOS AS A SIGN OF USG SUPPORT.

B) THE SIGNING BY VICE PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROJECT AGREEMENTS WILL INDICATE THAT USG IS BACKING MARCOS

AND IS NOT REALLY CONCERNED OVER HUMAN RIGHTS IN
PHILIPPINES.

C) MARCOS DEPENDS ON U.S. ECONOMIC AND MILITARY
ASSISTANCE, AND ON ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS. HE NEEDS USG SUPPORT MORE THAN THE USG
NEEDS HIM.

D) MARCOS THINKS HE HAS USG "OVER A BARREL" BECAUSE
OF OUR PERCEIVED DESIRE FOR NEW BASE AGREEMENT.

E) WITNESSES SAID USG SHOULD SLOW DOWN BASE NEGOTIATIONS
RATHER THAN CONCLUDE AGREEMENT WITH "DISCREDITED"
REGIME.

4. CONGRESSMAN RYAN, IN INTRODUCTORY AND CLOSING
REMARKS, NOTED CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER THE LOSS OF
DEMOCRACY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE LACK OF SIGNIFICANT
STEPS BY THE USG TO FURTHER HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAT
COUNTRY. VANCE

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